GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1783
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
CABLE TARIFF
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that cable operators in different parts of the country increase the subscription rates at their own will despite the objection raised by the Residents' Welfare Associations:

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to regulate the cable tariff through TRAI or through any other agency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a),(b) & (c): The charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators and by cable operators to Multi system operators/broadcasters are regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The charges were frozen at the levels of 26.12.2003. To allow for inflation, these charges have been allowed an increase upto 7% with effect from 1.1.2005. These ceilings do not apply to pay channels, which came up after 26.12.2003 or to Free-to-Air channels converted to pay channels after 26.12.2003. However, TRAI has specified that rates of these channels must be similar to the rates of similar channels as on 26.12.2003 and provided on a stand-alone basis either individually or as part of a new separate bouquet.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India examines complaints of hike in cable charges in accordance with the Tariff Order issued in this regard and takes action as required under the law.